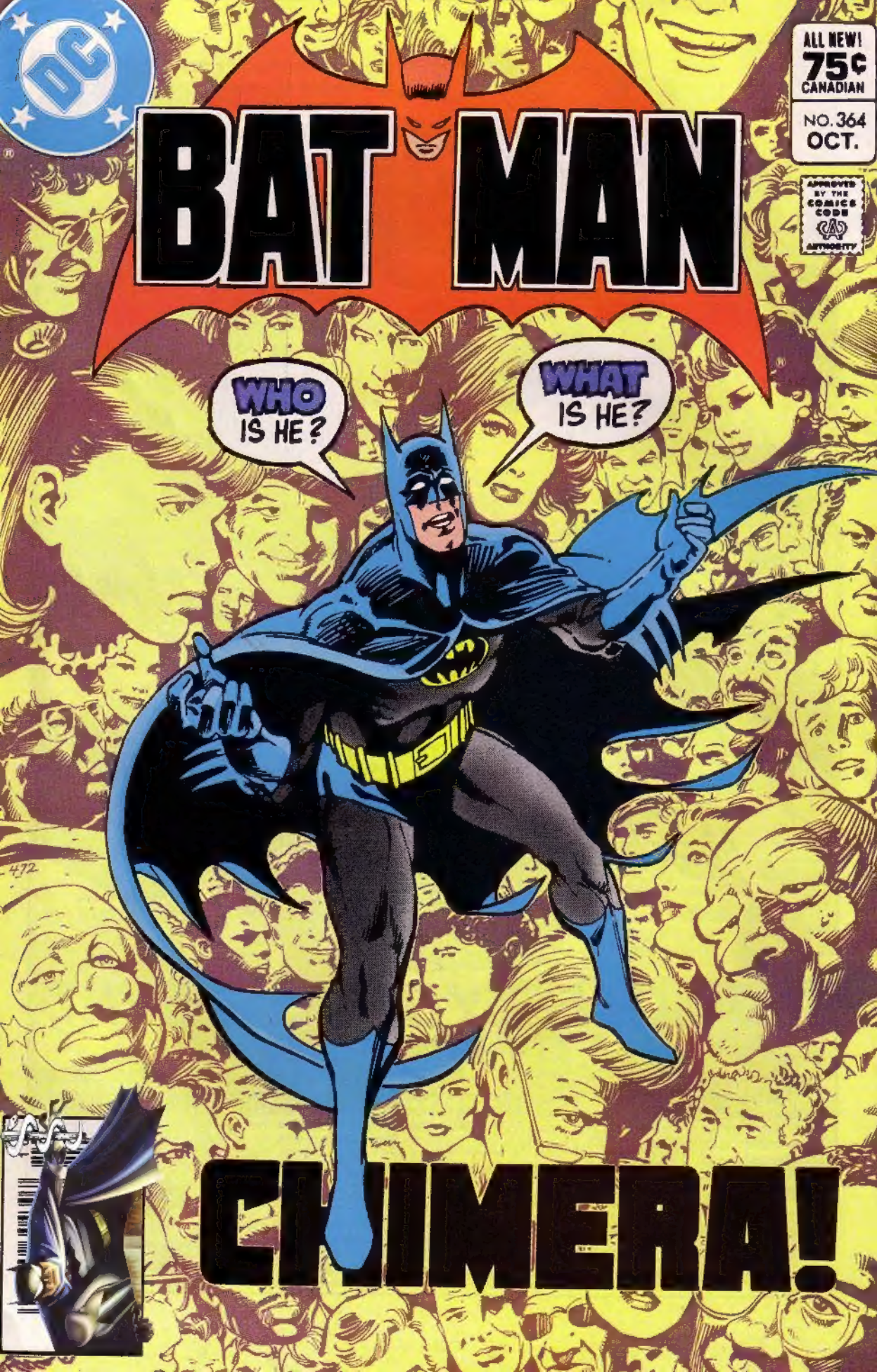
BAT MAN
ALL NEW!
75¢
CANADIAN
NO. 364
OCT.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WHO IS HE?
WHAT IS HE?
CHIMERA!

THE CIRCUS HAS COME TO ZUMA, INDIANA...
...AND THE BREWSTER FAMILY HAS COME TO THE CIRCUS.
UHN--!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, PLEASE.
WHO, DEAR?
OH, UM, NOTHING--JUST GOT JOSTLED, THAT'S ALL.
BUT AT THE BIGTOP TICKET COUNTER...
MY WALLET'S GONE-- THAT GUY WHO BUMPED ME WAS A PICKPOCKET!
ARE YOU SURE, DEAR?
WELL, I'VE GOT ENOUGH TO PAY OUR ADMISSIONS...
BUT MY WALLET--!
PLEASE, DEAR-- THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CIRCUS FOR A MONTH. LET'S NOT SPOIL IT FOR THEM. WE CAN REPORT IT TO THE POLICE LATER.
OH, VERY WELL...
THE CHILDREN BEAM IN RELIEF--
--AS, IN THE SHADOWS OF NEARBY TENTS...
844 JOLIET STREET. LESS THAN A MILE AWAY.
AND, LESS THAN A HALF-HOUR LATER, AT 844 JOLIET STREET...
... A LIFTED WALLET PROVES TO BE A MERE PRELUDE TO LARGER CRIME.

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Phil & Doc Scan

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BAT MAN
THE MAN OF A THOUSAND MENACES
CREATED BY BOB KANE
IT IS BRIGHT, GAUDY, AND LOUD, A PLACE OF SPOTLIGHTS AND SNARLING ANIMALS, SAWDUST AND SMILES, COTTON CANDY AND THE CAPERING COMEDY OF CLOWNS...
IT IS THAT ANCIENT THEATER OF THRILLS KNOWN AS THE CIRCUS.
AND NOW, LADEEZ AN' GENNULMEN, MAY I DIRECT YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION TO THE AERIAL ARTISTRY OF THE AIR ACES--
--FEATURING THE DAREDEVIL STUNTS OF YOUNG JASON TODD!
THE CROWD ROARS.
DOUG MOENCH writer
DON NEWTON Artist • ALFRED ALCALA Inker
BEN ODA — Letterer
ADRIENNE ROY — Colorist
LEN WEIN Editor
2

IT'S CRAZY, BUT EVER SINCE I LEFT WAYNE MANOR--
--EVEN THIS DOESN'T GIVE ME A KICK.
AND THE ROAR TURNS TO CHEERS.
THIS IS TOTALLY AWESOME! TOO BAD EDDIE'S SICK AND COULDN'T COME!
YEAH--BUT EDDIE'S TOO OLD FOR THE CIRCUS. HE'S EIGHTEEN.
MY WALLET...
MOM? DAD? ;SNIFF: THAT YOU--?
I THOUGHT ;SNIFF: YOU WENT TO THE CIRCUS...
HUH--?
WH-WHO'RE YOU?!
CALL ME CHIMERA, PUNK...
IT'S PRONOUNCED KY-MERE-UH...
WOK!
AND MAKE SURE THE PAPERS SPELL IT RIGHT.
3

EVEN THE APPLAUSE SOUNDS HOLLOW...
...EMPTY...
YA DID GREAT, KID.
THAT EASY LIVIN' AT THE WAYNE JOINT AIN'T LOST YA ANY OF YER OLD TOUCH.
UH, THANKS, WALDO.
HEY-- WHERE YA GOIN', KID? I'M ON RIGHT AFTER THE LIONS-- AIN'T YA GONNA WATCH MY ACT?
NOT TONIGHT, WALDO-- I'VE GOT A PROJECT GOING IN MY TRAILER...
ANXIOUS TO GET BACK TO IT.
AND SOON...
HERE'S ANOTHER ONE-- A THREE DAY STAND IN MEMPHIS, JULY NINTH THROUGH ELEVENTH ... AND A HOUSE BURGLARY IN MEMPHIS ON THE TENTH.
THAT'S THE SIXTH PERFECT MATCH BETWEEN OUR SCHEDULE AND THESE NEWS CLIPPINGS...
THE TWO LISTS FIT HAND IN GLOVE-- A BURGLARY IN EVERY TOWN ON THIS SEASON'S ITINERARY.
AND I'LL BET TOMORROW'S NEWS WILL CARRY AN ITEM ABOUT ANOTHER BURGLARY HERE IN ZUMA, INDIANA.
SOMEONE IS USING THIS CIRCUS AS A MOBILE FRONT FOR CRIMES IN EACH TOWN ON THE CIRCUIT.
THE BURGLAR HAS BEEN SEEN IN THREE OF THE CRIMES-- AND NO LINK HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE CIRCUS BECAUSE THE DESCRIPTIONS HAVE BEEN RADICALLY DIFFERENT IN EACH CASE...
4
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

AND YET, THERE IS ONE SIMILARITY-- IN ALL THREE CASES, THE CRIMINAL HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS EXTREMELY UGLY...
...ALMOST TOO HIDEOUS TO BELIEVE.
THERE CAN'T BE THAT MANY GROSS CROOKS OUT THERE -- WHICH LEADS ME TO DEDUCE THAT THERE IS A CONNECTION WITH THE CIRCUS...
The Flying Todds
...AND THE CRIMINAL MUST BE SOMEONE WITH ACCESS TO A MAKEUP KIT.
THE OBVIOUS SUSPICION WOULD FOCUS ON A CLOWN OR--
YAHH!
EASY, KID-- DIDN'T MEAN TO SPOOK YA...
...BUT YA GOT A VISITOR.
HUH? KINDA LATE FOR--
ALFRED!
HELLO, MASTER JAY.
5

WELL, I'LL LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE-- SEE YA LATER, KID.
GEE, ALFRED, IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU! HOW'S--

NEVER MIND. WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE ANYWAY?
WELL, THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS...
I... I'VE COME ON INSTRUCTIONS OF MASTER BRUCE.

WE... WE BOTH MISS YOU, AND--
YEAH? WELL, YOU JUST TELL "MASTER BRUCE" THAT I DON'T MISS THE TREATMENT I GOT BACK IN GOTHAM.
THE CIRCUS SUITS ME BETTER.
WAS IT REALLY THAT BAD, JAY?

NO... OF COURSE NOT, ALFRED. YOU AND BRUCE TREATED ME GREAT.
IT... IT'S JUST THE OTHER PROBLEM.
YOU STILL WANT TO SERVE AS THE BATMAN'S NEW PARTNER...
YEAH... AND JUST BETWEEN YOU AN' ME, ALFRED, A LOT OF THE OL' CIRCUS RAZZLE HAS LOST ITS DAZZLE FOR ME...

... BUT I'LL NEVER COME BACK UNLESS I'M WELCOMED BY BOTH BRUCE AND THE BATMAN.
SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL GO HOME AND TELL HIM IT'S NO DICE.

NOT UNTIL I PROVE MY WORTH AS A DETECTIVE AND CRIME-FIGHTER ANYWAY...
...BY CRACKING THIS CIRCUS CAPER.
6

OH, DEAR...
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, ALFRED.
JASON LEFT BECAUSE OF ME-- AND IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO BRING HIM BACK.
GO ON HOME TO GOTHAM-- I'LL TAKE OVER FROM HERE.
BEST WAY TO START IS TO CHECK OUT WHATEVER IT WAS I OVERHEARD JASON MUMBLING ABOUT...
WH-WHATEVER YOU SAY, SIR-- I'LL KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING.
AND GOOD LUCK, SIR.
THAT TRUNK-- IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE CLASP I HEARD SNAPPING...
AND AFTER A QUICK SCAN OF JASON'S AMATEUR DOSSIER...
THE LITTLE SCAMP...!
HE HAS UNCOVERED TROUBLE RIGHT HERE IN THE CIRCUS...
...WHICH MEANS I'LL BE STAYING A WHILE -- AND NOT JUST TO KEEP AN EYE ON JASON.
7

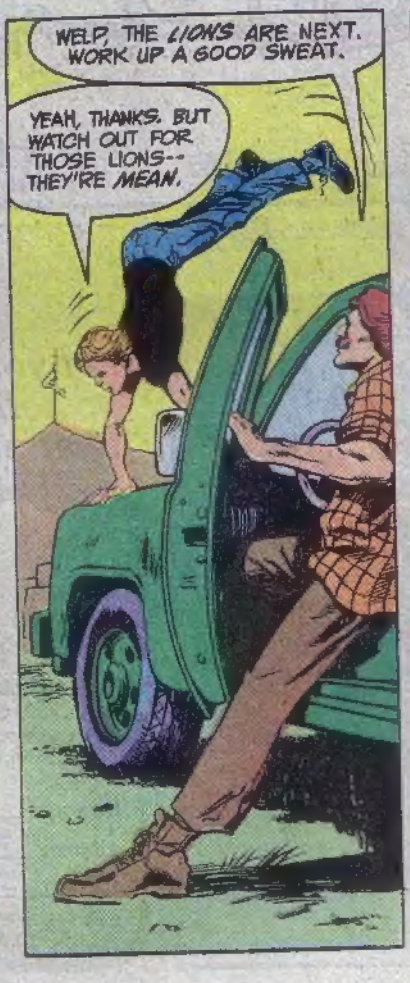
WHILE, ELSEWHERE IN THE SHADOWS OF THE CIRCUS GROUNDS...
NOW TO STASH THE JOLIET STREET JEWELRY WITH MY OTHER LOOT...
...ALL FOR FENCING WHEN WE RETURN TO FLORIDA FOR THE WINTER.
MORNING AT THE PICTURE NEWS BUILDING IN GOTHAM...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, VICKI?
CLEANING OUT MY DESK. I TOLD YOU I'D QUIT IF YOU DIDN'T ASSIGN ME TO THE FIELD WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.
AS PUBLISHER OF THIS OUTFIT, YOU SHOULD KNOW WHEN A DEADLINE'S UP.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT--YOU'RE A TOUGH BIRD, VALE, BUT YOU WIN.
YOU'RE TOO GOOD AN EDITOR TO LOSE-- TOO GOOD A PHOTOGRAPHER TO LOSE.
THERE'S SOME TROUBLE IN GUATEMALA.. BUT IF IT SOUNDS TOO STEAMY OR BUGGY OR DANGEROUS FOR YOU--
HUH--?
NOW WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HOME TO PACK.
GUATEMALA IT IS.
8

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE CIRCUS...
NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE...
MIND IF I DO MY EXERCISES HERE?

BETTER ASK THE ELEPHANTS, SON. IT'S THEIR TURF.
I'M THE TRAPEZE ACT-- NAME'S JASON.
YOU NEW HERE?

JUST A ROUSTABOUT, SON-- HIRED THIS MORNING--WORKING FROM ONE MEAL TO THE NEXT.
USED TO BE AN ACCOUNTANT, WOULD YOU BELIEVE?
REAGANOMICS.


WELP, THE LIONS ARE NEXT. WORK UP A GOOD SWEAT.
YEAH, THANKS. BUT WATCH OUT FOR THOSE LIONS-- THEY'RE MEAN.

WOULDN'T WANT YOU FEEDING THEM LITERALLY!
INSTINCT TELLS ME TO SCRATCH HIM AS A SUSPECT...
INSTINCT, AND THE FACT THAT A GRUFF VOICE CAN'T DISGUISE SOMETHING VERY FAMILIAR ABOUT HIM...

WAYNE MANOR:
SCRUBBED EVERY FLOOR IN THE HOUSE...
...AND I STILL CAN'T GET MY MIND OFF--
...POLISHED THE SILVER TWICE...
BING BONG
PERHAPS THAT'S THEM!
BUT AS ALFRED OPENS THE DOOR ON A SHADOW ETCHING THE SUNNY DAY...
YOU-!
AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
...YOU...YOU'VE COME BACK.
MORE ON WAYNE MANOR'S MYSTERY VISITOR IN UPCOMING ISSUES...
BUT RIGHT NOW, AT VICKI YALE'S APARTMENT...
SNAP!
To Vicki, With all my love, Bruce.

ALL OF YOURS AIN'T ENOUGH, BUSTER!
SKASH
SLAMM
APARTMENT AVAILABLE; SLIGHTLY DAMAGED.
A NIGHT AT THE CIRCUS-- AS A STORM SWEEPS IN FROM THE NORTH...
A GOOD NIGHT TO SET A PRECEDENT--BY STRIKING TWICE IN ONE TOWN... EVEN IF THE TWO CRIMES ARE DIFFERENT.
BUT CHANGE IS WHAT CHIMERA IS ALL ABOUT-- AND WHY NOT CHANGE MY M.O.?--ESPECIALLY SINCE THAT FANCY BUTLER PROVES BRUCE WAYNE WANTS THE KID BAD.
OUTSIDE...
BINGO--AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GETTING READY FOR ANOTHER MOVE.
MAYBE I SHOULD FOLLOW HIM... CATCH HIM IN THE ACT...
AT THE VERY LEAST, HE MAY LEAD ME TO HIS CACHE OF LOOT...
CLOB
11

NOW THE RAIN LASHES DOWN...
THERE'S THE "ROUSTABOUT" --AND IT'S HIM, ALL RIGHT-- IT'S GOTTA BE...
...SNOOPIN' AROUND, TRYIN' TO CRACK THE CASE BEFORE I CAN.
TODAY'S PAPER CALLED THE CROOK "CHIMERA" -- WHICH FITS WITH MY QUICK-CHANGE ARTIST THEORY, MEANING I'M RIGHT, AND SOONER OR LATER I'LL FIND HIM HERE IN THE CIRCUS...
AND THAT MEANS I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET THE BATMAN STEAL MY THUNDER.
THE WHOLE IDEA IS TO IMPRESS THE BATMAN IN THE FIRST PLACE -- SO MAYBE I CAN GIVE HIM A LITTLE TASTE OF IT BY EXPOSING HIS MASQUERADE...
WHAT THE--?
HE'S HEADING FOR JASON'S TRAILER!
HE'S NOT HERE.
THEN MAYBE HE'S IN THE BIGTOP, WORKING OUT ON THE TRAPEZE...

HE'S LEAVING!
GOT TO KEEP HIM IN VIEW!
AND WHEN JASON ROUNDS THE TENT...
HUH--? DID HE JUST COME OUT OF MY TRAILER?
AND IF HE KNOWS I'M NOT THERE, WHY IS HE SNEAKING LIKE THAT?--UNLESS HE'S NOT THE BATMAN -- UNLESS HE ACTUALLY IS THE CHIMERA!
BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRAILER, SCREENED FROM JASON'S VIEW..
DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF HIM SNOOPING ON JASON.
PERHAPS IT'S BEST TO CHANGE TO THE BATMAN--
--AND JUMP HIM RIGHT NOW.
THE STORM BUILDS.
GONE--AND IF HE IS THE CHIMERA, I'D BETTER CHECK MY TRUNK FOR THE FOLDER...
...'CUZ IF HE'S TUMBLED TO THE FACT THAT I'VE TUMBLED TO HIM...
OBOY.

IT'S ROOF STRETCHED LIKE THE SKIN OF A DRUM, THE BISHOP'S VAST VOLUME ECHOES WITH THE DULL DEAD SPATTER OF RAIN...
HE'S NOT HERE EITHER.
ONE LAST PLACE TO CHECK...
CHIMERA!
EH?
YOU'RE ABOUT TO MAKE ANOTHER CHANGE, CRIMINAL--
--TO PRISON GRAYS.
THE BATMAN!
14

WH- WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT I DO BEST, CHIMERA...
SCOURING THE NIGHT.
BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE--!
I... I'M JUST A THIEF--
--AND YOU CAME ALL THE WAY FROM GOTHAM TO STOP ME--?
WHY?!
BECAUSE YOU'VE JUST CROSSED THE LINE, CHIMERA...
... FROM THIEF TO KIDNAPPER.

WHAT?!
BUT HOW COULD YOU KNOW--?!
THROK!
THE NIGHT HOLDS NO SECRETS FROM ME, CHIMERA...
WHEREVER SHADOWS FALL, I KNOW EVERYTHING.
N-NO! IT'S INSANE! YOU'RE NOT REAL!
16

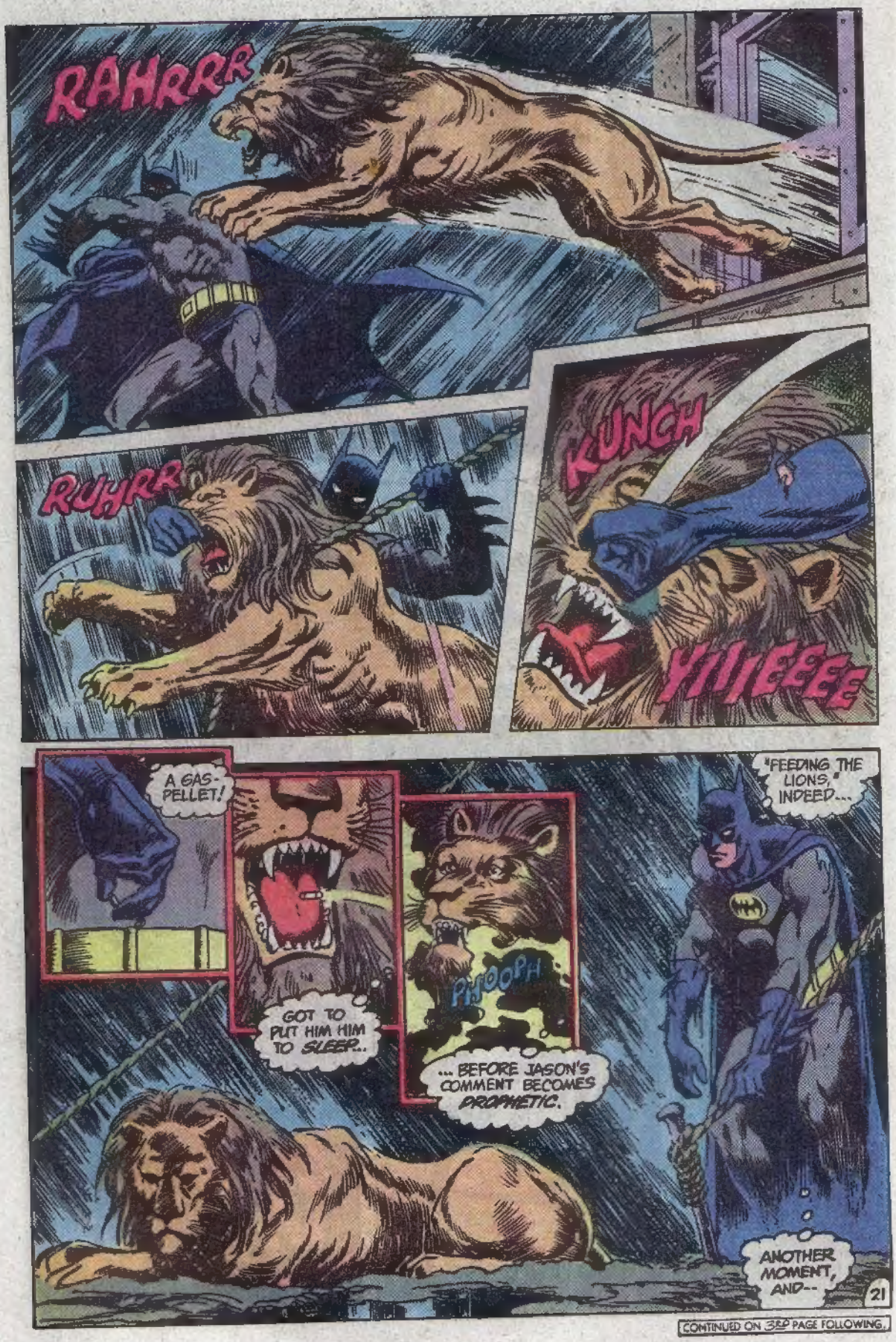
MORE REAL THAN YOUR CONSCIENCE.
KRUMP
MORE REAL THAN YOUR WRETCHED DREAMS OF CRIMINAL GAIN!
N-NO!
YOU'RE A MONSTER! GOT TO GET AWAY!
RUN, CHIMERA, RUN -- BUT YOU'LL FIND NOWHERE TO HIDE!
NOT FROM ME.
NOT FROM THE BATMAN!
AND THE STORM ASSUMES PROPORTIONS OF NIGHTMARE.
17

CONTINUED ON 38TH PAGE FOLLOWING

IN GOTHAM, TOO, IT RAINS...
BRRING
HELLO?
...AS POLICE COMMISSIONER JAMES GORDON LOGS EXTRA HOURS...
LATE HOURS
WH-WHAT--?
THE BATMAN HAS BEEN WHAT--?!
YOU HEARD ME, COPPER--HE'S BEEN DRILLED BY SOME HOOD...
HE'S BLEEDIN' INTO THE GUTTER AT HASTINGS AN' LARCHMONT.
GORDON'S FACE PALES.
HIS HANDS TREMBLE.
IN THE DRAWER--!
MY CAR KEYS! WHERE'D I PUT THEM?!
FRAFF.
FAF
FAF
YAHH!
AGH-H!
AND HIS HEART SEEMS TO EXPLODE.
18

KRASH
THUMP
HEY-- RELAX, GORDON.
YER PRECIOUS BATMAN'S FINE.
YA HEAR ME, YA CAN STOP CRASHIN' AROUND IN SUCH A HURRY.
IT WAS JUST ME- HARVEY BULLOCK...
THE WHOLE THING WAS ONLY A--
--JOKE.
AND HERE TOO... THE RAIN PLAYS HOST TO NIGHTMARE
19

IT FALLS IN FURY NOW...
... IN TORRENTS...
... AS THE NIGHT'S MARE CHANGES COURSE.
IF ONLY THE RAIN WEREN'T FALLING SO HARD...
LOST HIM WHEN HE WAS LESS THAN TWENTY YARDS AWAY.
STILL, HE CAN'T BE TOO FAR...
UP HERE... MAYBE I'LL FIND--
UHRRR
20



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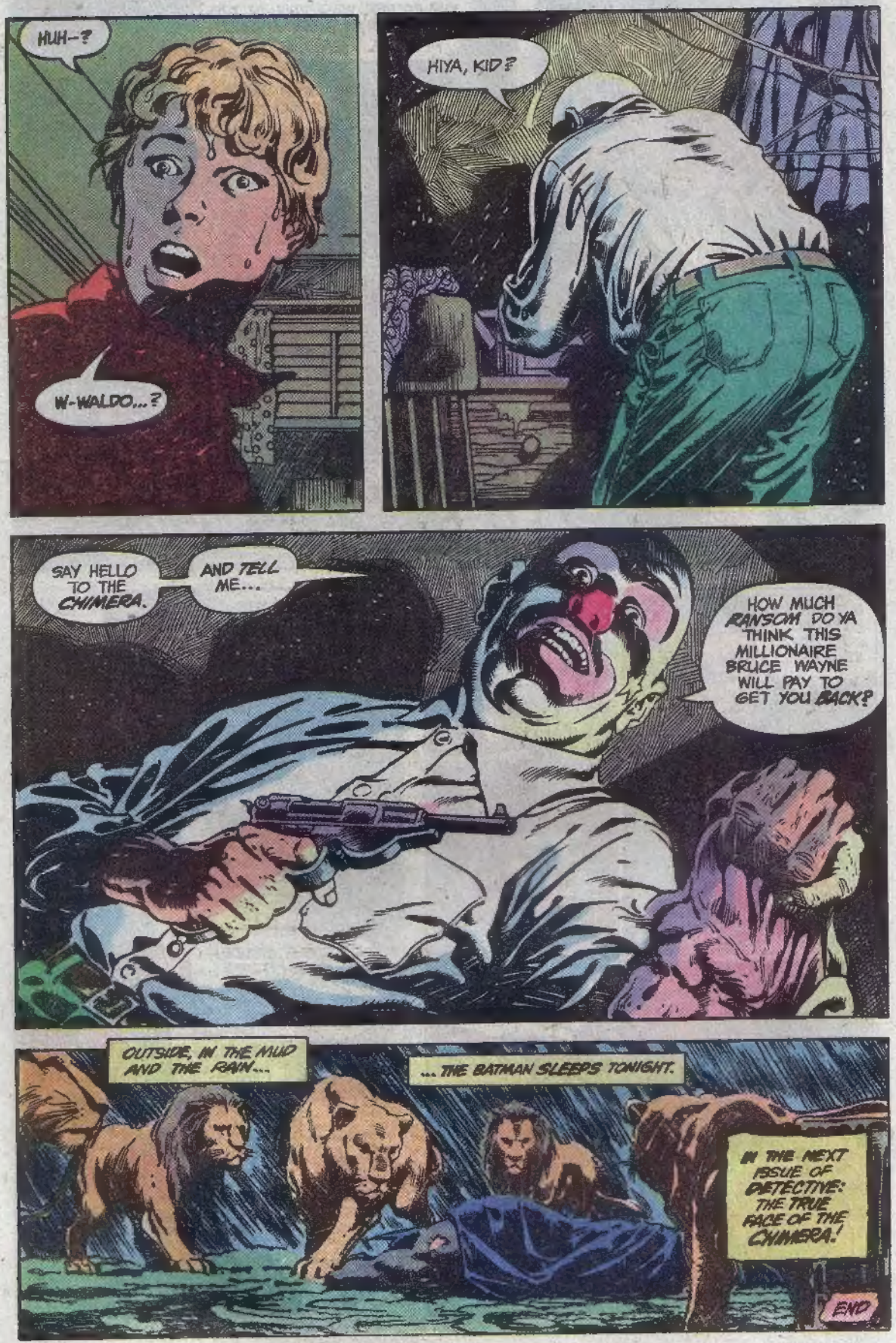
FRAKT
UHHHN!
THE FOLDER WAS STILL IN THE TRUNK, SO MY FIRST INSTINCT MUSTIVE BEEN RIGHT...
AND THERE HE IS AGAIN -- UP AHEAD...
BUT WHY IS HE GOING INTO THAT TRAILER...?
PROBABLY CHECKING OUT EVERYONE...
AND THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME TO SURPRISE HIM.
ALL RIGHT, BRUCE -- YOU CAN CUT THE MASQUERADE AND TAKE OFF YOUR FALSE FACE.
I KNOW IT'S YOU. BUT MY MIND'S MADE UP, AND I'M STILL NOT GOING BACK TO GOTHAM UNTIL--


HUH-?
W-WALDO...?
HIYA, KID?
SAY HELLO TO THE CHIMERA.
AND TELL ME...
HOW MUCH RANSOM DO YA THINK THIS MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE WILL PAY TO GET YOU BACK?
OUTSIDE, IN THE MUD AND THE RAIN...
... THE BATMAN SLEEPS TONIGHT.
IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF DETECTIVE: THE TRUE FACE OF THE CHIMERA!
END